

12A 22
L E T T E R

From the NOBILITY, BARONS and COMMONS of SCOTLAND,
In the Year 1320, yet extant under all the Seals of the NOBILITY.

Directed to

P O P E J O H N:

Wherein they declare their firm Resolutions, to adhere to their King
ROBERT the BRUCE, as the Restorer of the Safety, and Liber-
ties of the People, and as having the true Right of Succession: But
withal, They notwithstanding Declare, That if the King should offer to
alienate their Civil Liberties, they will discern him as an Enemy,
and choose another to be King, for their own Defence.

Translated from the Original, in Latin, as it is insert by Sir George
Mackenzie of Rosburgh, in his Obligations on Precedency, &c.

A Letter from the Nobility, Barons and Commons of SCOTLAND, in
the Year 1302. yet extant under all the Seals of the Nobility, &c.

SANCTISSIMO Patri in CHRISTO
ac Domino, Domino Joanni,
Divina Providentia Sacro-
sanctæ Romanæ & Universalis Ec-
clesiæ summo Pontifici, Filii sui
humiles & devoti, *Duncanus Co-*
mes de Fyfe, Thomas Ranulphi Comes
Moraviæ, Dominus Manniæ, & Val-
lis Annandiæ, Patricius de Dumbar
Comes Marchiæ, Malisus Comes de
Strathern, Malcolmus Comes de Le-
venox, Willielmus Comes de Ross,
Magnus Comes de Cathaniæ &
Orcadiæ, & Willielmus Comes de
Sutherlandiæ, Walterus Senescallus
Scotiæ, Willielmus de Soules But-
tellarius Scotiæ, Jacobus Dominus
de Douglas, Rogerus de Moubray,
David Dominus de Brechine, David
de Grahame, Ingelarmus de Umtra-
ville, Joannes de Monteith Custos
Comitatus de Monteith, Alexand-
er Frazer, Gilbertus de Haia Con-
sularius Scotiæ, Robertus de Keith
Mariscallus Scotiæ, Henricus de San-
cto Claro, Joannes de Grahame, Da-
vid de Lindsey, Willielmus Oliphant
Patricius de Grahame, Joannes de
Monteith, Willielmus de Abernethie,
David de Weyms, Willielmus de

TO our most holy Father in
Christ, and our Lord, John
by the Divine Providence, chief
Bishop of the most holy Roman, and
Universal Church, Your humble and
devoted Sons, *Duncan Earl of Fyfe*
Thomas Randolph Earl of Murray,
Lord Mannia, and Annandale, Pa-
trick de Dumbar, Earl of March, Ma-
lisus Earl of Strathern, Malcolm E.
of Lennox, William E. of Ross, Mag-
nus Earl of Caithness and Orkney,
William E. of Sutherland, Walter Ste-
ward of Scotland, William de Soules,
Buttelarius of Scotland, James Lord
Douglas, Roger de Mowbray, David
Lord Brechin, David de Grahame,
Ingelramus de Umfravil, John de
Monteith, Warder of the County
of Monteith, Alexander Frazer
Gilbert de Hay, Constable of
Scotland, Robert de Keith Mari-
shal of Scotland, Henry de San-
cto Claro, John de Grahame, David de
Lyndsay, William Oliphant, Patrick
de Grahame, John de Fenton, William
de Abernethie, David de Weyms,
Willielmus de

Montefixo, Fergusus de Ardrosan, Enstachius de Maxwell, Willielmus de Ramsay, Willielmus de Montalto, Alanus de Moravia, Dovewaldus Campbell, Ioannes Camburn, Reginaldus le Chen, Alexander de Seton, Andrea de Lescelyne, & Alexander de Stratton, cæterique Barones & Libere-
 tenentes, ac tota Communitas Regni Scotia, omnimodum Reverentiam filialem, cum devotis pedum osculis beatorum. Scimus sanctissime Pater & Domine, & ex antiquorum Gestis & Libris colligimus, quod inter cæteras Nationes egregias, nostra scilicet. Scotorum Natio, multis Præconiis fuerit insignita: Quæ de majori Scythia per mare Tirenium & Columnas Herculis transiens, & in Hispania inter ferocissimus, per multa temporum Curricula, residens a nullis quantumcunque Barbaricis poterat alicubi subjugari; Indeque veniens, post mille & ducentos annos a transitu populi Israelitici, sibi sedes in occidente quas nunc obtinet, expulsi Britonibus, & Pictis omnino deletis, licet per Norwegienses, Danos, & Anglos sæpius in impugnata fuerit, multis sibi Victoriis, & Laboribus quamplurimis acquisivit; ipsasque ab omni servitute liberas ut
 oilcorum testantur historiæ temper tenuit.

William de Monte-fixo, Fergus de Ardrosan, Enstachius de Maxwell, William de Ramsay, William de Monte-alto, Allan de Murray, Donald Campbell, John Camburn, Reginald le Chene, Alexander de Seton, Andrew de Lescelyne, and Alexander Stratton, And the rest of the Barons & Freeholders, and whole Community, or Commons of the Kingdom of Scotland, send all manner of Filial Reverence, with devout kisses, of your blessed and happy Feet.

Most holy Father and Lord, we know and gather from ancient Acts and Records, that in every famous Nation, this of Scotland hath been celebrat with many praises: This Nation having come from Sythia the greater, through the Tuscan Sea, and by Hercules pillars, and having for many Ages taken its Residence in Spain in the midst of a most fierce people, could never be brought in Subjection by any people, how barbarous soever: And having removed from these parts, above 1200 years after the coming of the Israelites out of Egypt, did by many Victories & much toil, obtain these parts in the West, which they still

& tresdecem Reges de ipsorum Re- possess, having expelled the Britons
 gali prosapia, nulla alienigena inter and intirely rooted out the *Picts*,
 veniente regnaverunt, Quorum No norwithstanding of the frequent af-
 bilitates & merita, licet ex aliis non faults and invasions they met with
 clarent, satis tamen patenter efful- from the *Norwegians*, *Danes*, and
 gent, ex eo quod Rex Regum Do- *English*; And these parts and posses-
 minus JESUS CHRISTUS post pas sions they have always retained free
 sionem & Resurrectionem suam, ip- from all manner of Servitude, and
 sos in ultimis Terræ finibus consti- Subjection, as ancient Hist. do witness
 tutos, quasi primos, ad suam Fidem This *Kindom* hath been govern'd
 Sanctissimam, convocavit: Nec eos, by an uninterrupted succession of
 per quemlibet in dicta Fide, confir 113 Kings all of our own Native
 mari voluit; sed per suum primum and Royal stock, without the inter-
 Apostolum, quamvis Ordine se- veening of any stranger.
 cundum vel tertium, sanctum An The true Nobility and merits of
 dream meritissimum beati Petri Ger those *Princes* and people, are very
 manum, quam semper ipsis præfere remarkable, from this one consider-
 voluit ut Patronum. Hæc autem ation, (tho' there were no other e-
 sanctissimi Patres & Predecessores vidence for it) That the *King* of
 vestri sollicita mente pensantes ip- *Kings*, the *Lord Jesus Christ*, after
 sum Regnum & Populum, ut beati his passion and Resurrection, honor
 Petri Germani peculium, multis fa ed them as it were the First (though
 voribus & privilegiis quampluri living in the outmost ends of the
 mis muniverunt. Itaque Gens Earth) with a *Call* to his most ho-
 nostra, sub ipsorum protectio ly *Faith*: Neither would our *Saviour*
 ne, libra hactenus deguit & have them confirmed in the *Chri-*
 quicta; donec ille Princeps Magni- stian *Faith*, by any other Instrument
 ficus Rex *Anglorum Edwardus*, Pater than his own First Apostle, (tho'
 istius qui nunc est, Regnum nos- in order the second or third) St,
 trum Acephalum, Populumq; nul- *Anderew* the most worthy Brother
 lus mali aut doli conscium, nec of the blessed *Peter*, whom he would
 Bellis aut insultibus tunc assuetum,
 sub amici & confederati specie, innumerabiliter infestavit: Cujus In-
 jurias

jurias, Cædes & violentias, Predi-
tiones, Incendia, Prelatorum In-
carcerationes, Monasteriorum Com-
bustiones, Religiosorum Spoliation-
es, & Occisiones, alia quoque Enor-
mia, quæ indicto populo exercuit,
nulli parcens Aetati aut Sexui, Re-
ligioni aut Ordini, nullus scriberet
nec ad plenum intelligeret, nisi
quam Experientia informaret. A
quibus malis innumeris, ipso invan-
te qui post vulnera me detur & fa-
nat, Liberati sumus persenerissi-
mum Principem, Regem & Domi-
num nostrum, Dominum Robertum,
qui pro Populo & Hæreditati suis,
de Manibus inimicorum liberandis,
quasi alter *Maccabeus*, aut *Josue*
Laboris & Tædia, Inedias & Peri-
cula, læo sustinuit animo: Quem
etiam Divina Dispositio, & juxta
Leges & Consuetudines nostras
quis usque ad mortem sustinere
voluit, juris Successio, & debi-
tas nostrorum Consensus & Assen-
sus, nostrum fecerunt Principem at-
que Regem. Cui tanquam illi per
quem salus in Populo facta est pro
nostra Libertate tuenda, tam Jure
quam Meritis tenemur, & volumus
in omnibus adherere. Quem, si ab-
inceptis desisteret, Regi *Anglorum* aut
Angliæ nos, aut Regnum nostrum vol-
ens subicere tanquam inimicum nostrum & sui nostrique Juris Subversorem

always have to be over us, as our
patron or protector.

Upon the weighty consideration
of these things our most holy *Father*
your Predecessors did with many
great and singular Favours and Pri-
viledges fence and secure this *King-*
dom and *People*, as being the pecu-
liar charge and care of the Brother
of *St. Peter*; so that our Nati-
on hath hitherto lived in free-
dom and quietness, under their
protection, till the *Magnificent*,
King Edward, Father to the pre-
sent *King of England*, did under
the colour of Friendship, and ally-
ance, or confederacie, with innum-
erable oppressions infest us who
minded no fraud or deceit, at a time
when we were without a *King* or
Head, and when the People were
unacquainted with wars and inva-
sions. It is impossible for any whose
own experience hath not informed
him to describe, or fully to under-
stand, the injuries, Blood, and vio-
lence, the depredations and fire, the
imprisonments of Prelates, the bur-
ning, slaughter and robbérie com-
mitted upon holy persons and Re-
ligious Houses, and a vast multi-

(6)
statim expellere niteremur; & ali-
um Regem nostrum, qui ad defen-
sionem nostram sufficiet, faciemus:
Quiaquamdiu Centum vivi reman-
serint, nunquam *Anglorum* domi-
nio aliquatenus volumus subjugari.
Non enim propter Gloriam, Devi-
tias aut Honores pugnamus, sed pro
pter Libertatem solummodo, quom-
nemo bonus nisi simul cum vita a-
mittit. Hinc est, Reverende Pater
ac Domine quod Sanctitate vestram
cum omni Præcum instantia, Gen-
flexis Cordibus exoramus; Quate-
nus sincero corde, menteque pia re-
censentes, quod apud eum cujus
vices in terris geritis, non sic pondus
& pondus nec distinctio *Judei & Græ-*
ci *Scoti* aut *Anglici*, tribulationes &
angustias nobis & Ecclesiæ DE il-
latis ab *Anglicis*, paternis oculis in-
tuentes; Regem *Anglorum*, cui
sufficere debet quod possidet, cum
olim *Anglia* septem aut pluribus so-
lebat sufficere Regibus, monere &
exhortari dignemini, ut nos *Scot-*
os in exili degentes *Scotia* ultra-
quam habitatio non est, nihilq; nisi
nostrum cupientes in pace dimittat.
Cui pro nostra procurranda quiete
quicquid possumus, ad statum nos-
trum respectu habito, hoc facere vol-
umus cum effectu. Vestra enim interest, Sancte Pater, hoc facere, qui

tude of other Barbarities, which
that King execute on this People
without sparing of any Sex, or age,
Religion, or order of men whatso-
ever.

But at length it pleased God, who
only can heal after wounds, to re-
store us to libertie, from these innu-
merable calamities, by our most Se-
rene Prince King and Lord Robert
who for the delivering of his Peo-
ple & his own Rightful inheritance
from the Enemies hand, did like a-
nother *Josua*, or *Maccabeus* most
cheerfully undergo all manner of
toyle fatigue, hardship, and hazard
The Divine Providence, the right
of Succession by the Laws and Cus-
toms of the Kingdom (which we
will defend till death) and the due
and Lawfull Consent, and Assent
of all the People, made him our
King and Prince. To him we are
obliged, and resolved to adhere in
all things, both upon the account
of his right, and his own merit, as
being the Person who hath restor-
ed the People's safety, in defence of
their Liberties. But after all, it this
Prince shall leave these principles.

he hath so nobly pursued, and con-

Faga .

Faganorum feritatem, Christianorum culpis exigentibus, in Christianorum favientem aspiciatis, & Christianorum terminos Arctari indies: Quare ne quid vestra Sanctitatis memorie derogat, & si quod absit, Ecclesia in aliqua sui parte vestris temporibus patiatur Ecclesiam aut Scandalum vos videritis, Exorter igitur Christianos principes, qui, non casum ut casus ponentes, se fingunt in subsidium Terrae sanctae, propter generas quas habent cum proximis ire non posse; Cujus impedimenti causa est verior, quod, in minoribus proximis debellandis, utilitas propior & resistentia debiliore estimantur. Sic quam laeto corde dictus Dominus Rex noster, & nos, si Rex Anglorum nos in pace dimitter, illuc iremus; qui nihil ignoret satis novit: Quod CHRISTI Vicario totique Christianitati ostendimus & testamur. Quibus si Sanctitas vestra Anglorum reatibus nimis credula fidem sinceram non adhibat, aut ipsis in nostram confusionem favere non desinat; corporum excidia, animarum exitia; & cetera quae sequuntur incommoda; quae ipsi in nobis & nos in ipsis fecerimus; vobis ab Altissimo credimus imputanda. Ex quo sumus & erimus in his quae tenemur tanquam obedientiae filii vobis

sent that we or our Kingdom be Subjected to the King or People of *England*, we will immediately endeavour to expell him, as our *Enemy* and as the *Subverter*, both of his own and our rights, and will make another *King*, who will defend our Liberties: For so long as there shall but one hundred of us remain alive we will never Subject our selves to the *Domtinion* of the *English*. For it is not *Glory*, it is not *Riches*, neither is it *Honour*, but it is *Liberty* alone that we fight, and contend for, which no honest man will lose but with his life.

For these reasons *most Reverend Father and Lord*, We do with most earnest prayers, from our bended Knees and Hearts, beg, and entreat your *Holiness* that you may be pleased with a sincere and cordial piety to consider; that with *Him*, whole Vicar on Earth you are; there is no respect nor distinction of *Jew* nor *Greek*; *Scots*; nor *English*, and that with a tender and *Fatherly* Eye you may look upon the calamities and straits brought upon us and the Church of God by the *English*; and that you may admonish; and ex-

tanquam ipsius Vicario in omni exhort the King of England (who
bus complacere; ipsique tanquam may well rest satisfied with his own
summo Regi & Judici causam nostre possessions since that Kingdom of old
ruendam committimus cogitat7 nos used to be sufficient for seven or more
trum jactantes in ipso; sperantesque Kings) to suffer us to live at peace
finem; quod in nobis virtutem fa in that narrow spot of Scotland be
ciet & ad nihilum rediget hostes yond which we have no habitation
nostros. Serenitatem & Sanctitatem since we desire nothing but our own
vestram conseruet Altissimus Ecce and we on our part, as farr as we are
sue sue sanctæ per tempora diuina- able, with respect to our own con
na. Datum apud Monasterium de A- dition. shall effectually agree to him
berbrothock in Scotia, sexto die Apri- in every thing that may procure our
lis, Anno Gratiae millesimo trecente- quiet.
simo vicelesimo, Anno vero Regni Re- It is your concernment, Most Holy
gis nostri supradicti, quintodecimo. Father, to interpose in this, when you

see how far the Violence, and Barba
rity of the Pagans is let loose against Christendom for punishing of the
sins of the Christians, and how much they dayly enroach upon the Chri-
stian Territories. And it is your interest to notice, that there be no ground
given for reflecting on your memory, if you should suffer any part of the
Church, to come under a Scandal, or Eclipse (which we pray God may
prevent) during your time.

Let it therefore please your Holiness, to exhort the Christian Princes,
not to make the warrs betwixt them and their Neighbours a pretext for
not going to the relief of the Holy Land, since that is not the true cause
of the impediment. The truer ground of it is, that they have a much near
er prospect of advantage, and farr less opposition, in the subduing of their
weaker Neighbours. And God (who is ignorant of nothing) knows,
with how much cheerfulness both our King, and we would go thither, if the King of England would
leave us in peace, and we do hereby testify and declare it to the Fear of Christ, & to all Christendom.

But, if your Holiness shall be too credulous of the English misrepresentations, and not give firm cre-
dit to what we have said, nor desire to favour the English to our destruction, we must believe that the
Most High will lay to your charge, all the Blood loss of Souls, and other calamities that shall follow on
either hand, betwixt us and them.

Your Holiness in granting our just desires, will oblige us in every case, where our duty shall require
it, to endeavour your satisfaction, as becomes the obedient Sons of the Vicar of Christ.

We commit the defence of our cause, to him who is the Sovereign King and Judge, we cast the
burden of our cares upon him, & hope for such an issue as may give strength, and courage to us & bring
our Enemies to nothing. The most High God long preserve your Serenity & Holiness to his holy Church.

Given at the Monastrie of Aberbrothock in Scotland, the Sixth day of April, in the Year of
Grace M, CCC, XX. And of our said Kings reign the 14. Year.